

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-58 are pending in the case. Claims 1-16, 17-30, 45-48, and 49-58 are withdrawn with traverse in response to a restriction requirement.

Restriction Requirement:

In the present office, the Examiner has grouped the claims as follows:

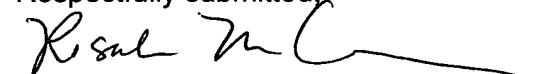
- I. Claim 1-16, "drawn to a method of reducing semiconductor defects using acetylenic diol surfactants, classified in class 438, subclass 677";
- II. Claims 17-30, "drawn to a process solution containing acetylenic diol surfactants, classified in class 510, subclass 175";
- III. Claims 31-44, "drawn to a method for reducing pattern collapse using acetylenic diols or quaternary ammonium surfactants, classified in class 438, subclass 677";
- IV. Claims 45-48, "drawn to a method of preparing a process solution for the treatment of semiconductors containing acetylenic diols or quaternary ammonium surfactants, classified in class 438, subclass 677"; and
- V. Claims 49-58, "drawn to a process rinsing solution for reducing pattern collapse using quaternary ammonium surfactants or acetylenic diols, classified in class 510, subclass 175."

The Examiner has requested that Applicants make an election for those claims to be examined. In response, the Applicants has requested that claims in group III, or claims 31-44, be elected with traverse for continued prosecution. As a result of this election, Applicants are withdrawing the claims in Groups I, II, IV, and V but reserving their rights under 35 USC § 121 to file a divisional application and/or request rejoinder for the non-elected claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the additional restriction requirement on the following basis. If the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. MPEP §803. Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no serious burden on the Patent Office to examine in this application all of the present claims because the subject matter of these claims is sufficiently related such that a search of the claims in any one Group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other Groups.

Should the Examiner require any further information, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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